GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
RELIEF PACKAGE TO FARMERS
Mollah Shri Hannan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited so far by the relief package of the PrimeMinister;

(b) whether the Government proposes to help those farmers who have taken loan from the private money lenders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): As reported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 61.48 lakh loan accounts of farmers have been given the benefit of waiver of overdue interest and reschedulement of loans has been done in 33.71 lakh farm loan accounts under the rehabilitation Package for the farmers being implemented in 31 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. In addition, 26,729 farmers and 6,17,697 farmers have benefited from subsidiary income activities and extension services respectively.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. The banks have been advised by the Government under farm credit package of 2004 to provide loans to farmers for repaying their debts taken from informal sources including private money lenders. In addition, the banks have been advised to earmark 3% of agriculture credit during 2008-09 for swapping of debt taken by the farmers from informal sources including private money lenders. NABARD has introduced 'Krishak Sathi Scheme' to extend refinance support to the banks for providing loans to the farmers to free them from the clutches of moneylenders.

(d): Does not arise.